

MEIJI SHRINE

The **MEIJI (May-jee) SHRINE** is one of Tokyo's biggest and best-known Shinto shrines. It is open daily from 0640 to sunset. The memorial was established on November 1, 1920 to honor the Emperor Meiji, who, with Empress Shoken, ruled Japan from 1868 to 1912. The Emperor Meiji instituted many reforms, including moving the imperial capital from Kyoto to Tokyo. His son reigned during the Taisho period (1912 - 1926), and his grandson reigned from (1926 -1988), after which the current Heisei period started under Emperor Akihito.

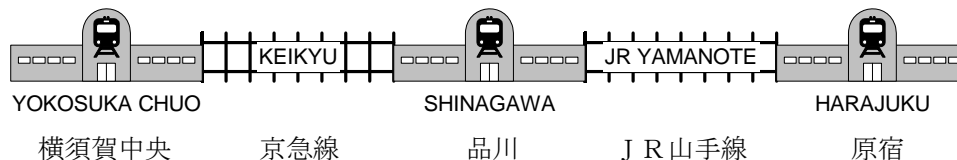
The shrine is located in a large park in the fashionable district of Harajuku. On a broad, straight pathway surrounded by tall trees, you will pass through two enormous Torii (gates) to reach the main shrine enclosure. Just inside the entrance of the main shrine is a fountain where visitors rinse their hands and mouth before approaching the shrine itself. A leaflet is available at one of the booths inside the compound explaining Shinto rituals and etiquette. You may observe a blessing ceremony going on, perhaps for a newborn baby, or a child's birthday, or even for a wedding.

The iris garden, to the left of the pathway leading to the shrine, was once the private garden of a great warlord; today it is open to all. Its narrow paths twist through patches of woods, opening suddenly to views of a pond filled with huge, brightly colored carps. The irises reach their peak in June and July.

A short walk from the main shrine will bring you to the shrine's "Treasure House" museum, where personal possessions of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken are displayed. Their elaborate ceremonial kimono and spectacular gilded carriages are particularly notable.

From YOKOSUKA:

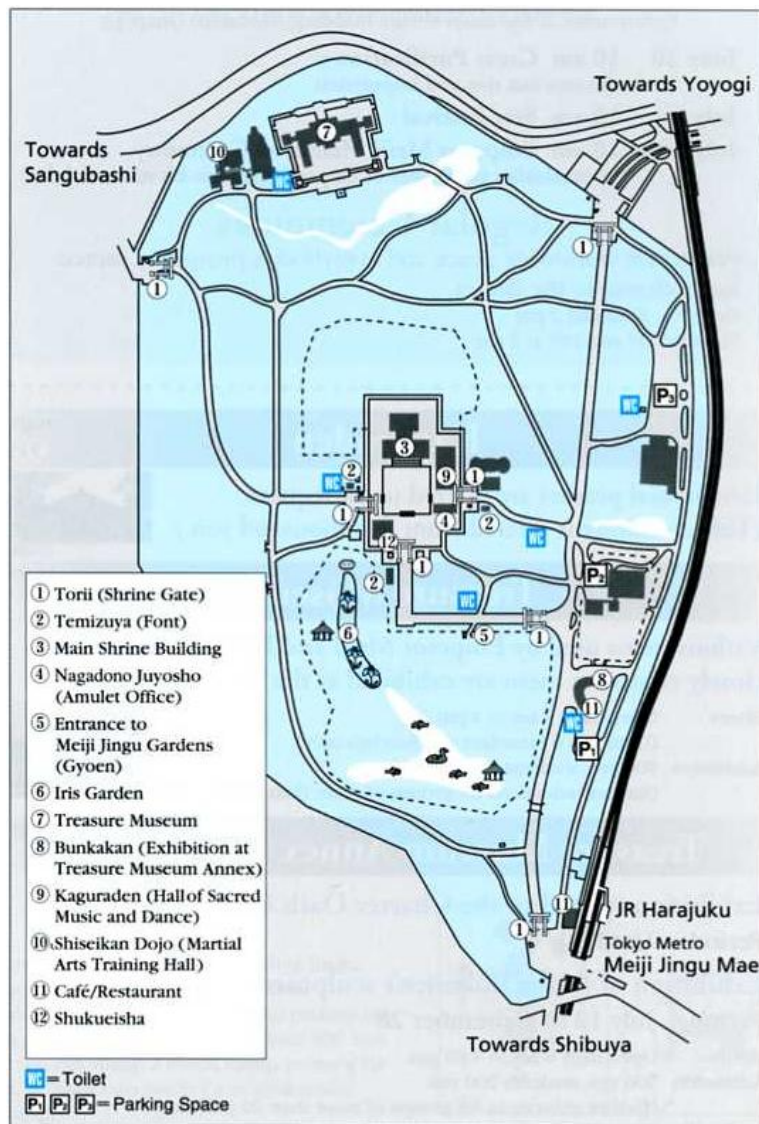
1. At **YOKOSUKA CHUO (横須賀中央) Station**, buy a ¥780 transfer ticket to **HARAJUKU (原宿)** via the **JR YAMANOTE (J R 山手線) Line**.
****Note**** To buy a transfer ticket, touch the following buttons on the screen:
<<<English → Ticket → Connecting Ticket tab → Change at Shinagawa JR Line → Ticket fare amount>>>
2. Go to **Platform #2** and take a train with either a GREEN or RED kanji sign bound for **SHINAGAWA (品川) Station**.
****Note**** **If possible, get on one of the last two cars of the train. This will make it easier and faster to find the entrance to the JR Lines at Shinagawa (品川) Station.**
3. Get off at **SHINAGAWA (品川) Station**. Take the stairs up and follow the elevated walkway near the end of the platform. Go through the wicket machines to enter the JR Line area. **Do not forget to retrieve your ticket.** Go to **Platform #2** of the **JR YAMANOTE (J R 山手線) Line** bound for **SHIBUYA (渋谷) and SHINJUKU (新宿)**. **HARAJUKU (原宿) Station** is the **6th** stop from Shinagawa Station.
4. After leaving the station through the main exit for **Omotesando Dori (south) exit**, look to your right, and you will see a large intersection. It is easy to recognize by the large pedestrian overpass. Near that overpass, look again to your right and you will see a bridge crossing the train tracks. The entrance to the shrine complex is just across this bridge.



From IKEGO:

1. At **JIMMUJI (神武寺) Station**, buy a ¥710 transfer ticket to **HARAJUKU (原宿) Station** via the **JR YAMANOTE (J R 山手線) Line**. ****Note**** To buy a transfer ticket, touch the following buttons on the screen:
<<<English→Ticket →Connecting Ticket tab→Change at Shinagawa JR Line →Ticket fare amount>>>
2. Go to **Platform #2** and take a local train to **KANAZAWA-HAKKEI (金沢八景) Station**.
3. Get off at **KANAZAWA-HAKKEI (金沢八景) Station**, go to **Platform #3**, and transfer to a **KEIKYU MAIN LINE** train with either a GREEN or RED kanji sign bound for **SHINAGAWA (品川) Station**.
****NOTE**** If possible, get on one of the last two cars of the train. This will make it easier and faster to find the entrance to the JR Lines at Shinagawa (品川) Station.
4. Continue with Step #3 in the directions of “*From YOKOSUKA.*”

<http://www.meijijingu.or.jp/english/map/1.html> (interactive map & additional information)



Updated January 2012

Map is not to scale. All information is subject to change without notice. If you observe any information which needs updating, please call the Information and Referral Desk of the Fleet and Family Support Center, Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan at 243-6716 or 243-3372. Thank you.